

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 PRS-01 /029 W
-----029881 171229Z /11
O 171221Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4329
INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 01385

USIA FOR IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PPDC
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE FOR FRANCO-AMERICAN
TREATY BICENTENNIAL DINNER

1. FOUR WELL KNOWN FRANCO-AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS ARE SPONSORING A DINNER FEBRUARY 6 TO COMMEMORATE THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COMMERCE BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE U.S. THE DINNER IS BEING SPONSORED BY FRANCE-ETATS-UNIS, FRANCE-AMERIQUE, AND FRENCH BRANCHES OF THE SONS OF CINCINNATI AND SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. MRS. VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING IS EXPECTED TO ATTEND. FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD AND AMBASSADOR HARTMAN WILL BE AMONG THE PRINCIPAL GUESTS. FRANCE ETATS-UNIS AND FRANCE-AMERIQUE WERE TWO OF THE ORGANIZATIONS WHICH SPONSORED PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPEECH AT THE PARIS PALAIS DES CONGRES JANUARY 4. THE AMBASSADOR BELIEVES IT WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE OCCASION FOR THE READING OF A PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE. THE AMBASSADOR WOULD DELIVER THE MESSAGE IN FRENCH, TO THE PREDOMINANTLY FRENCH-SPEAKING GROUP.

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2. THE FOLLOWING DRAFT IS SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION:

3. QUOTE: ONE MONTH HAS PASSED SINCE MY VISIT TO FRANCE. THE WARM MEMORIES OF MY BRIEF STAY WILL REMAIN WITH ME FOR MANY YEARS TO COME. INDEED, I WISH I COULD BE WITH YOU THIS EVENING TO THANK YOU PERSONALLY FOR HELPING TO MAKE THOSE DAYS SO ENJOYABLE AND EXCITING.

YOU ARE MEETING NOW TO COMMEMORATE THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE TREATIES BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS WHICH CONSOLI-
DATED THE DECISIVE HELP FRANCE GAVE TO OUR REVOLUTION
AND WHICH MARKED FRANCE'S RECOGNITION OF OUR NEW NATION.

NEAR OUR EMBASSY ON THE PLACE DE LA CONCORDE IS THE
HISTORIC HOTEL COISLIN WHERE A PLAQUE COMMEMORATES THIS
EVENT. THE INSCRIPTION READS: "IN THIS BUILDING,
ON FEBRUARY 6TH, 1778, CONRAD A. GERARD IN THE NAME OF
LOUIS XVI, KING OF FRANCE, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, SILAS
DEANE, ARTHUR LEE, ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES
SIGNED THE TREATIES OF FRIENDSHIP, COMMERCE AND
ALLIANCE, BY WHICH FRANCE, FIRST OF ALL NATIONS,
RECOGNIZED THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES."

I DOUBT IF ANY OF US TODAY CAN FULLY APPRECIATE THE
POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PRACTICAL EFFECT OF THIS
ACT ON OUR YOUNG COUNTRY. BY THIS ACT OUR STRUGGLING
COLONIES WERE RECOGNIZED BY ONE OF THE LEADING NATIONS
OF EUROPE, TREATED AS AN EQUAL AND RAISED TO THE
DIGNITY OF A NATIONAL ENTITY. LET ME ASSURE
YOU THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THEIR GOVERNMENT

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WILL NEVER FORGET FRANCE'S ROLE AS AN ANCHOR DURING
THE STORMY PERIOD OF OUR ENTRY ON THE WORLD SCENE.

DURING THE TWO CENTURIES THAT HAVE PASSED, THE FRENCH

AND AMERICAN PEOPLES HAVE REMAINED TOGETHER THROUGH
SHARED EXPERIENCES, COMMON IDEALS AND ASPIRATIONS.
TWICE IN THIS CENTURY WE HAVE SACRIFICED MUCH TO MAIN-
TAIN OUR COMMON DEDICATION TO FREEDOM AND HUMAN DIG-
NITY. ON THE BEACHES OF NORMANDY, ONE MONTH AGO,
PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING AND I REAFFIRMED THE
IDEALS THAT HAVE BOUND OUR TWO PEOPLES.

THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS -- IN THEIR OWN WORDING --
PLEDGED THAT "THERE SHALL BE A FIRM, INVIOABLE AND
UNIVERSAL PEACE, AND TRUE AND SINCERE FRIENDSHIP"
BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES. WE HAVE FOLLOWED
THIS WISE COUNSEL OF OUR FOREBEARS. TODAY, IN A WORLD
IN WHICH WE ARE EVEN MORE DEPENDENT UPON EACH OTHER,
THE FRIENDSHIP OF FRANCE AND AMERICA IS AS FIRM AS IT
HAS EVER BEEN.

MY BEST WISHES TO ALL OF YOU THIS EVENING. PLEASE
ACCEPT MY CONGRATULATIONS FOR THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF
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YOUR ORGANIZATIONS IN THE PAST AND MY BEST WISHES FOR
CONTINUED SUCCESS IN BRINGING THE PEOPLES OF OUR TWO
NATIONS EVEN CLOSER IN THE YEARS AHEAD. UNQUOTE.
HARTMAN

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